

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-7 and 9-15 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 9 and 10 have been amended. Claim 15 has been added. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 8 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant greatly appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended and new independent claim 15 has been added to include the subject matter of original dependent claims 8 and 11, respectively, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Janik et al., U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. US 2002/0078248. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Janik. Claims 5, 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Janik in view of Lai, U.S. Patent No. 6,570,775. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Janik in view of Tung-Chieh et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0016487. Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Janik in view of Hsu et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0100275. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original dependent claim 8, which was indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that none of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claim 1 or its dependent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 and 9-14 clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claim 15 has been added for the Examiner's consideration.

As mentioned above, independent claim 15 has been added to include the subject matter of dependent claim 11, which was indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that independent claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claim 11 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney

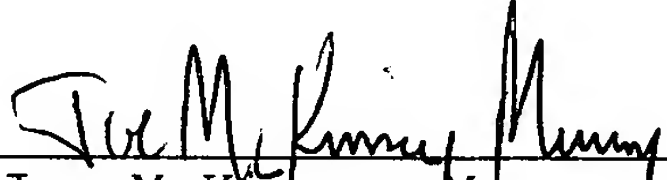
Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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